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THE NEWS AND GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

VOL. I.—No. 21. MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1881. ONE PENNY.

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THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM, April 16. This Theatre will be closed in Passion Week, until Saturday, April 16, when will be presented Mr. Cowley's Comedy, THE BELLE'S STRATAGEM. Doricourt, Mr. Irving; Letitia Hardy, Miss Ellen Terry; Miss Sophie Young, Mr. Howe, Mr. Terriss, Mr. Pinero, Mr. Elwood, Mr. Beaumont, &c. &c. Preceded by Alfred Tennyson's Tragedy, THE CUP. Seats can now be booked.—LYCEUM.

ADELPHI THEATRE.—Managers, Messrs. A. and S. GATTI.—THIS EVENING, at 8, MICHAEL STROGOFF. Mr. C. Warner, Mr. H. J. Byron, and Mrs. Hermann Vezin; Messrs. J. Fernandez, Irish, Rosier, Warren, Russell, Palmer, Proctor; Mesdames Bernard-Beere and Gerard. At 7.15, BARNEY THE BARON. Mr. Shiel Barry, Miss Clara Jecks.

OLYMPIC.—JENNIE LEE.—JO.—FAREWELL PERFORMANCES.—THIS EVENING, at 8.30. Miss JENNIE LEE; Mesdames Dolores Drummond, M. Leighton, F. Smithers, C. Steele, F. Leyton, C. Humphreys, &c.; Mr. J. P. Burnett; Messrs. Howell, Dolby, Compton, Andrews, Leigh, Crisp, &c. Preceded, at 7.30, by FAMILY JARS. Misses Smithers and Leyton. Messrs. Compton, Crisp, Grahame. Box Office open 10 till 5. No Booking Fees. Carriages 10.45.—General Manager, Mr. J. H. COBBE.—OLYMPIC.

GAIETY THEATRE, Strand.—Sole Lessee and Manager, Mr. JOHN HOLLINGSHEAD.—7.0, OPERETTA. 7.20, LITTLE MOTHER: Miss L. Venne, &c. 8.30, FORTY THIEVES (Burlesque) in 3 Acts. Misses Farren, Vaughan, Gilchrist, Broughton, Gilbert, Hewett; Terry, Royce, Squire, Dallas, Two Macs, and Chorus.

GLOBE.—The THEATRE will REOPEN on SATURDAY, the 16th April, with an entirely new Opera Comique, in Three Acts, by Offenbach, entitled MARGOT. First Time in this country. Produced under the immediate direction of Mr. H. B. Farnie, supported by a strongly augmented Company and elaborate Mise-en-Scene. Full particulars will shortly be announced.

ROYALTY.—Manageress, KATE LAWLER.—Doors open at 6.30. THE SECRET, 6.45. H. J. Byron's highly-successful Comic Drama, BOW BELLS, at 7.30; to conclude, at 9.30, with the great Royalty Burlesque, DON JUAN JUNIOR, now played for over 130 nights. Pronounced by the Press to be an overwhelming triumph. Kate Lawler, Harriet Coveney, Emma Ritta, Ruth Francis, Annie Lawler, Florence Lavender, Connie Carlin, and Elise Ward; Edward Righton, Seymour Dallas, T. P. Haynes, Frank Wyatt, Herbert Kelcey, H. Martell, and Frank Cooper. Musical Director, Herr Max Schroter; Secretary and Treasurer, Frank Rothsay; Acting and General Business Manager for Kate Lawler, Cecil Raleigh.

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COURT THEATRE.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. WILSON BARRETT.—TO-NIGHT, at 8, ROMEO AND JULIET. At 7, TWO OLD BOYS. Messrs. Wilson Barrett, J. Ryder, Forbes-Robertson, Clifford Cooper, Price, Norman Forbes, Norman, Darley, &c., and G. W. Anson; Mesdames Helena Modjeska, Emery, Giffard, Garnier, Clifford, &c., and R. G. Le Thiere. Doors open at 6.45, commence at 7. "Romeo and Juliet," at 8. Carriages at 11. Box Office daily from 11 to 5. No Fees. Morning Performance of ROMEO AND JULIET, SATURDAY NEXT, APRIL 9, at 2 p.m.—Acting Manager, Mr. H. Herman.

PRINCE of WALES'S ROYAL THEATRE. Sole Lessee, and Manager, Mr. EDGAR BRUCE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.40, a New Comedy, in Three Acts, called THE COLONEL, by F. C. Burnand. Preceded, at 7.50, by IN HONOUR BOUND, by Sydney Grundy. Mr. Coghlan, Mr. Flockton, Mr. W. Herbert, Mr. Eric Bayley, Mr. Rowland Buckstone, and Mr. Edgar Bruce; Miss Amy Roselle, Miss Myra Holme, Miss C. Grahame, Miss Eva Sothern, Mrs. Leigh Murray, &c. Doors open at 7.30; commence at 7.50. Box Office open daily, from Eleven to Five.—THE COLONEL. MATINEE, EVERY SATURDAY. Doors open at 2, commence at 2.30. An early application for seats is necessary.

ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE.—THIS EVENING, at 7.45, will be produced an entirely New and Original Romantic Spectacular Drama of sensational interest, entitled BRANDED, written by Richard Lee. New and realistic Scenery by Charles Brooke. New Overture and incidental Music by Michael Connelly. New Military Costumes direct from the Army Contractors, Paris. The horses supplied by Mr. George Sanger. Preceded at 7.0 by Farce, THE INTRIGUE. Box-office open daily.—ROYAL PRINCESS'S THEATRE. BRANDED.—Messrs. HENRY NEVILLE, Redmund, F. Archer, J. Beauchamp, F. Charles, C. Sidney, Allen Thomas, Hewitt, Escourt, Evens, Gardiner, Greville, W. Avondale, Chamberlain, Stirling, &c.; Misses Caroline Hill, Maud Milton, Katie Barry, &c.: Mrs. Huntley and Mrs. Lyons. The Drama produced under the direction of Mr. Harry Jackson.

STRAND THEATRE.—Sole Lessee and Manageress, Mrs. SWANBOROUGH.—THIS EVENING, at 8, a New and Original Opera Comique, in Three Acts, entitled OLIVETTE, adapted from the French of Chivot and Duru. Written and produced by H. B. Farnie. Preceded, at 7.30, by A SUMMER CLOUD. The Entertainment supported by a Powerful Company. Doors open at 7. Box Office open daily.—MORNING PERFORMANCE EVERY SATURDAY, at 2.0.

FOLLY.—Lessee and Manager, Mr. J. L. TOOLE. TO-NIGHT, at 7.30, HESTER'S MYSTERY. At 8.15, 349th Time, a New and Original Comedy, in Three Acts, by Henry J. Byron, called THE UPPER CRUST. Barnaby Doublechick, Mr. J. L. Toole. At 10.15, ICI ON PARLE FRANCAIS. Mr. J. L. Toole. Box Office open 10 till 5.—Prices: 1s. to £3 3s. No Free List. No Fees for Booking. Doors open at 7.—MORNING PERFORMANCE NEXT SATURDAY, APRIL 9. THE UPPER CRUST and BARDELL v. PICKWICK. Doors open 1.30. Toole in Two Pieces.

ALHAMBRA THEATRE.—TO-NIGHT, at 8.0 o'clock, will be produced JEANNE, JEANNETTE, AND JEANNETON, a New Comic Opera, in a Prologue and Three Acts, by MM. Clairville and Delacour. Music by P. Lacome. The English Libretto by R. Reece. Characters by Mesdames Loseby, St. Quinten, Alice May, Ivanova, Jamieson, Martino; Messrs. W. H. Woodfield, W. S. Penley, Kelleher, Power, Collini, Sweetman, and Fred Leslie.—TO-NIGHT. In Act II. is introduced a New Grand Mythological Ballet, entitled ENDYMION (Music by G. Jacobi): Danseuses, Mdlles. Pertoldi, Gillert, Rosa, and Palladino, supported by the entire Corps de Ballet.

NEW SADLER'S WELLS.—Miss BATEMAN as MARY WARNER for ONE MORE WEEK ONLY. TO-NIGHT, at 8, Tom Taylor's Popular Play, MARY WARNER. Miss Bateman, Messrs. E. H. Brooke, E. Lyons, A. Redwood, R. Lyons, B. Leslie, G. Canninge, &c.; Mrs. Huntley and Miss Compton. Prices from 6d. to 7s. 6d. Doors open at 6.30. Farce at 7. Box Office open 11 to 5.

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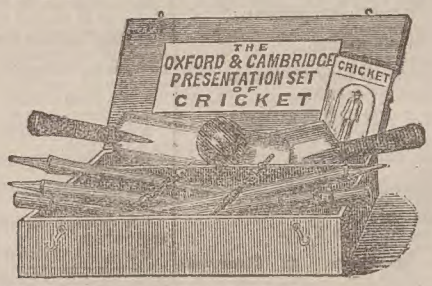

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H. FREEMAN.

THE CUCKOO

News and Gossip of the day.

VOL. I.—No 21. MONDAY, APRIL 4, 1881. ONE PENNY.

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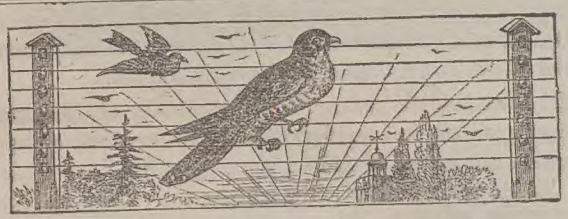
N. V. B.—*Editor's Office (to which all literary contributions for* THE CUCKOO *should be addressed), 97, Fetter Lane, London, E.C. Advertisers will please address H. Freeman, 86, Fleet Street, E.C. Publishing Office, 1, York Street, Covent Garden, W.C.*



News from Abroad.

Mr. Baring, Finance Minister in India, has taken a leaf out of Mr. Gladstone's book, and is putting by a quiet million or two of revenue, so that he may flash it out suddenly next year, as if he had just made it.

In the Budget he estimates the opium income at only six and a half millions, knowing all the time that it *must* be eight.

But then Major Baring has just succeeded a Jingo Finance Minister, and under the circumstances it cannot, of course, be expected that the finances are so flourishing as they will be after a year of Liberal administration.

It is scarcely credible, but it is a fact, nevertheless, that the British troops now in Candahar have orders to begin evacuating *next week*. This necessitates, therefore, the carrying out of marches of immense length and the transport of prodigious quantities of stores, &c., during the very hottest weeks of all the fierce Indian summer.

What is Sir Garnet Wolseley about? That Mr. Childers should be ignorant is not surprising, but Sir Garnet does know something about India.

He who marches troops about in India in April deserves to be marched with them—"tied up to a waggon or cart," as the new rules for punishment say—and not allowed a solah topee.

News from Basutoland continues important. In the Colonial camp constant night alarms, much sickness, and heavy rain falling daily, with fuel scarce. In the enemy's camp signs of activity and constantly augmenting numbers.

The Turkish authorities have suppressed the special telegrams of the *Times* newspaper. Such, at any rate, is the explanation given by our venerable contemporary for the appearance of news a week old from its "Special."

Prince Alexander of Bulgaria has been made a General of the German Army by the Emperor William.

Why should Great Britain stoop to congratulate this dunghill Monarch upon his elevation? We are too condescending nowadays.

No confirmation has been received of the capitulation of the garrison of Pretoria.

Ample confirmation, however, continues to come in of the feelings of humiliation and disgust felt all over British Africa at the submission of England to the Boers, and the practical joke played on Sir Frederick Roberts and the army.

France seems to have a serious trouble on its hands in the matter of Tunis. The fighting on Thursday was of rather a desperate character, and lasted eleven hours, and instead of mere provisional drafts being sent to the front, a regular *corps d'armée* is now being organised.

The Empress of Austria left Paris on Friday morning for Munich. The horse show was the main attraction in Paris, where her Imperial Majesty found her three sisters, the Queen of Naples, the Countess Trani, and the Duchesse d'Alençon. This last gave a cosy dinner at the hotel to her three sisters, she being "at home" in France. To this dinner the Empress, the Queen of Naples, and the Countess Trani drove in a brougham, Countess Trani seated on the Empress's knee—and the sisterly quartette enjoyed their evening—fancied themselves girls again!

Her Majesty arrived yesterday in her own capital. During her one day's stay at Brussels, the Empress fixed the date of her son's marriage with the Princess Stephanie.

Princess Metternich has had a series of what are termed "fast" or Lenten *soirées*. She is expected in Paris about the 20th of April.

That inveterate quintessence of a man coquette—Count Beust—is now coquetting with the Press, and has brought out his *souvenirs*. He coquetted with statesmanship in Saxony and Austria; with the muses Euterpe and Erato, and, in spite of the three-and-seventy summers that have blanched his hair, he still coquettes with all the young and handsome ladies he can find patient enough to listen to his rhodomontade.

To do him justice, Count Beust is a proficient in drawing-room conversation; his ready wit is as sparkling as Moët's best. But never look for anything serious—in politics, music, or poetry—from this incarnation of levity.

The young lady, who, on hearing of a catastrophe, exclaimed, "Quel bonheur! nous danserons," would be satisfied at the impetus given to Parisian society by the fire at Nice—fancy sales, concerts, &c., are the only orthodox amusements of the second half of Lent—but these abound.

A dear old lady, who never succeeded in getting married, has just died at Stettin. But she was very sympathetic. She left £15,000 to found an abode for ten old bachelors and forty old maids.

Sophie Petrowski, who has been arrested on the charge of having handed to Russakoff the bomb with which he assassinated the Czar, boasts openly that she was concerned in two previous attempts on the late Emperor's life. Nevertheless, the Nihilists threaten Alexander III. with death in the event of her execution.

St. Petersburg is in a state of siege—patrols in the streets, and all roads outside the capital closely posted with videttes. So searching, moreover, are the new military police regulations that no one, however high in rank, is exempted from their attentions.

Another of the Emperor's assassins has been captured—a priest's son, who confesses to having made the bomb which killed the Czar.

There is something very pathetic in the death of the wretched Esquimaux, who were brought from Greenland to Paris a short while ago. The caravan numbered nine persons, and they have all died of small-pox.

Every country has its special terrors. We, in Europe, look upon Greenland as a dangerous place of icebergs and polar bears; but the Esquimaux who have just died can never have heard of anything so terrible in their own country as this swift and deadly scourge of small-pox. It would have been much better for the poor oil-drinking creatures if they had remained amongst their dogs and reindeers instead of tempting fortune in Paris.

A report comes from Bombay that the British Government has proposed to lease Goa from Portugal, by an annual payment of twenty lakhs of rupees, Great Britain defraying all charges. A lakh of rupees equals £10,000.

It is reported that the British Government has decided not to be represented at the forthcoming monetary conference to be held in Paris.

News from the Country.

Fatal rioting is again reported from Ireland, this time from Sligo, where a party of police, who were protecting a process server, were so stoned, and met with such resistance from a mixed crowd of men, women, and children, that they at length fired into the mob, killing two, and severely wounding several others. One of the constables was so injured that there are only slender hopes of his recovery.

Brighton, I hear, is to be deprived of its horticultural show this year, as the society has been unable to make previous efforts pay.

The abomination known as "angle bangles" has possessed Brighton, and a local paper edifies its readers by noting that a young lady was seen on the pier a week ago with no less than a dozen of these savage ornaments on each ankle. The lady had by *no* means overlooked the necessity of a short petticoat for the proper setting forth of these adornments, and the chronicler declares that the jingle might be heard five yards off.

A public meeting was held on Saturday at Brighton, for the furtherance of the project o the new church at Hove; and another public improvement in contemplation—namely, a hospital for the reception of cases of infectious disease—was advanced a stage by receiving the recommendations of the Town Council in a special report.

Mr. Barnden, the retiring chief constable of Brighton, has been granted, in consideration of his services, a superannuation allowance of £170 a year. As we have already said, Mr. Superintendent Terry will, on the recommendation of the Watch Committee, succeed him.

Brighton has determined, at last, to be just to its costermongers. The Town Council are taking steps to legalise street hawking, under a system of licences which will reserve to them control over the costermongers.

Derby has a way of its own in dealing with the defunct. Poor Grimes died in the "union;" and this is how they buried him. The coffin was placed in the union hearse and trotted off to a secluded corner of the public cemetery. Prayers were read, and the coffin was lowered into the grave; then the officials discovered that the pauper had not been buried because the undertaker had forgotten to place the deceased outcast in the coffin. Interment accordingly commenced *de novo*. The coffin was unearthed; the

corpse was "wedged in;" prayers were repeated; and Grimes was at last fairly under ground.

A correspondent writes to us:—"Dover does not find its garrison men unmixed blessings, and it is going the rounds of the town as a joke that if the fellows who terrify the inhabitants by stone throwing from the top of the cliff, could be reminded by their officers that they are located in a civilised country, life in Snargate-street might become tolerable."

With a view to the discontinuance of Maidstone prison, personers committed by the Tunbridge Wells Bench of magistrates will be sent to Lewes Gaol. Such, at any rate, appears to be the intention of the Home Office, by a letter recently received by the county authorities at Maidstone, and we may expect, therefore, that the local opposition to the scheme, which was so brisk two years ago, when it was first mooted, will again be revived.

Christ Church College, Oxford, has been robbed of one of its treasures, a silver tray, which is described as follows: "A massive oval-shaped silver tray, deep groved border, cardinal's hat in centre, and Latin inscription, '*In Usum Canonicorum*' and 'C. C. Clerke.'" The tray weighs 163 oz., and a reward of £30 has been offered for the conviction of the thief.

Oxford has just now, however, a more engrossing subject of interest than a burglary. Everyone is on the *qui vive* as to the result of the report of the Election Commissioners. It is feared that some hundreds of persons will be scheduled for prosecution for their doings connected with the election, and several gentlemen of position and influence in the classic city are said to entertain uneasy forebodings.

As some slight relief to these afflictions, Oxford is to be regaled with a newspaper libel case arising out of an attack by the local *Times* upon the *Chronicle*, in an article headed, "Lying and Slandering."

News of Town.

Gossip of the Lobby.

Mr. O'Connor Power, M.P., has vowed a solemn vow *never* to open his mouth again during the present Session. Not even to yawn, Mr. O'Connor Power?

"The injudicious Peer" is again on the war path. After having called the attention of their Lordships to certain correspondence between Her Majesty's Government and Turkey, in which, it is stated, threats were freely exchanged. Lord Stratheden and Campbell will to-day ask for explanation as to *why* his friend Sir Henry Layard was withdrawn from the Embassy at Constantinople, as if it were not already well known, apart from the Negroponte episode.

A Cabinet Council, with a full attendance of Ministers, was held yesterday at the private residence of Earl Granville, in Carlton House-terrace.

The departure from custom in holding the Council at the residence of the Foreign Secretary, was owing to the indisposition of Earl Granville, which would have prevented his attendance had the meeting been in Downing-street.

Opposition to Mr. Blennerhasset's Marriage Bill is to be taken by the Liberation Society on the ground of its being based on false principles, and a sharp contest may be expected on the second reading.

The Vacant Seats.—Next Wednesday has been fixed for nominating the candidates for the vacant seat at Northampton, and the election will probably take place on Saturday.

Mr. Bradlaugh had a meeting in the town on Saturday, at which he was supported by Mr. Labouchere, and the proceedings were most enthusiastic, the unseated member speaking with the utmost confidence, and Mr. Labouchere assuring the electors that, in spite of all that had been said, Mr. Bradlaugh was really eligible, and that their votes would not, as had been stated, be thrown away upon a "dead man."

In St. Ives the contest is at its briskest, and frequent meetings are the order of the day. No less than three were held on Saturday. The nomination has been fixed for Thursday, and the polling for Monday.

Sir H. Havelock-Allan attended a Liberal meeting at Sunderland on Saturday night, and informing his hearers that, having been brought face to face with the alternatives of temporary withdrawal from politics, or permanent retirement from the army, he had regretfully been constrained to choose the former. Thereupon the meeting unanimously resolved that Alderman Storey, the local leader of the party, be invited to contest the seat. At a Conservative meeting it was decided with equal unanimity that Mr. Pearce, a member of a firm of Glasgow shipbuilders, be invited to stand, but the gentleman's consent has not yet been definitely given.

Mr. Powell, the unseated of Wigan, has issued a regret to his whilom constituents, that expresses at once sorrow and hope—the former at the calamity which the "indiscretions" of certain men had brought upon himself and the party, and the latter that he may again one day meet the electors of Wigan as their representative.

We learn from Wigan that a well-known and influential local manufacturer, a Mr. Eckersley, will contest the borough, from the representation of which Mr. Powell has been unseated on petition, in the Conservative interest. Mr. Eckersley will in great measure rely upon the Anglo-Irish vote.

A contingent of Irish members are agitating in the north of England,—Mr. Biggar at Darlington last night; and others at Middlesbrough and West Hartlepool. They are performing the part of Saul of Tarsus, "breathing out threatenings," if not curses, at the members for these boroughs, who obtained Irish support, and supported coercion in return.

The new refreshment bar at the House of Commons, at the foot of the staircase leading to the committee-rooms, for the use of strangers, was opened on Friday night. Henceforward the bar in the lobby will not be available for any but members of the House.

Churches and Churchmen.

It is rumoured at Kensington that Monsignor Capel will shortly reappear in the pro-Cathedral pulpit. If rumour proves correct—and it is to be hoped that in this instance it will—Kensington is to be congratulated, for benches only half-filled at the principal services must have sorely told upon the funds of Cardinal Manning's favourite church.

Monsignor Capel won the goodwill of everybody with whom he ever came in contact, and there is not a Catholic in London but would be heartily glad to see him back in his old place.

Seeing that his bankruptcy arose from circumstances beyond his own immediate control, and that his liabilities were incurred in the (to him) sacred cause of Catholic education, Kensington has never yet been fully able to understand why it should so suddenly, and for so long a time, have been deprived of Monsignor Capel's ministrations. His *locum tenens*, Dr. Rouse, is an excellent mission priest and choir-master, but by no means an adequate substitute for the splendid "Catesby."

Altogether, Monsignor Capel's reappearance on the stage of his former triumphs is eagerly looked for by Catholics of all grades who attend the spacious edifice opposite the gates of Holland Park, and we trust it will soon be a *fait accompli*.

The devotion of the *Quarante Ore*, or Forty Hours' Exposition, commences at the Pro-Cathedral, Kensington, at eleven o'clock to-morrow (Tuesday), and continues until after the High Mass on Thursday, at the same hour.

The sanctuary is most splendidly decorated for the occasion, and a full choir will render special musical services at eleven, four, and eight o'clock, both to-morrow and Wednesday.

Mendelsohn's *Lauda Sion* will be a special feature of the programme, and is likely to be done full justice to by the cathedral choir, which includes among its members Mr. Buels (bass), Mr. Barth (tenor), Mr. Mantell (alto), and Masters Nash, James, Buels, Taylor, and Becker (soprani).

The musical arrangements will be under the immediate supervision of Monsignor Rouse, D.D. It is expected that the Reverend George Cox will preside at the grand organ.

To judge from the preparations, which were in an advanced stage when our reporter visited the church yesterday evening, visitors to the Pro-Cathedral during the Exposition may expect a rare musical treat.

It is very grievous for a bishop to have to appoint a commission to investigate charges of intemperance and profane swearing against one of his vicars. It is much more grievous when the committee has to report to his lordship that serious grounds exist for further inquiry into those charges.

This is the position of affairs at Westham, near Eastbourne, whither the Lord Bishop of Chichester has just found it necessary to send a committee of inquiry to take evidence of charges of this nature against the vicar, and the commission, after hearing witnesses, have unanimously decidedthat there is a *prima facie* case for further proceedings.

Several of the American Methodist Bishops will visit this country in the autumn as representatives of the Methodists of America to an Œcumenical Conference of all sections of the denomination, which is to be held at first in London, about September, and afterwards, in several session, in the provinces—at Leeds, Birmingham, Bristol, and Liverpool.

The Salvation Army seems to be in perpetual hot water. It has been burnt in Paris and scalded at Basingstoke. At the Hampshire Town Hall the Mayor and Councillor Tubb were specially distinguished in their opposition, and the discriminating *Rock* sees in them reproductions of the Ephesian celebrities, Alexander and Demetrius.

Four dukes, 30 lesser lights of the Peerage, 26 M.P.'s, 22 baronets, 172 officers, 191 J.P.'s, and over 20,000 of the smaller fry of this realm have memorialised the Archbishop of Canterbury against the toleration "within the Church of England of any doctrines or practices which favour the restoration of the Roman Mass, or any colourable imitation thereof, any reintroduction of the Confessional, or any assumption of sacerdotal pretentions in the clergy." More power to them.

I did my devotions yesterday in the East-end, and among the hymns sung was one with the following verses, which Revivalists will please note:—

"The devil and me, we can't agree,
I hate him, and he hates me;
He had me once, but he let me go,
He wants me again, but I don't mean to go

"My old companions, fare you well,
I will not go with you to hell;
My new companions are so kind,
I've left the world and the devil behind."

And yet people complain that poets and good men are scarce!

The St. Paul's *pièce de resistance* this week is the Rev. Mr. Knox Little, daily at 1.15.

We should have inclined to the opinion that it was sufficiently hard on any clergyman (to say nothing of the clergyman's congregation) for him to have to preach only one sermon every Sunday evening. But a placard outside the Servite Church, at Fulham, announces to all whom it may concern that the Rev. Father Herbert will *"preach a course of sermons every Sunday evening during Lent!"*

We sincerely hope the congregation appreciates the said course; but we rather fancy, for our own part, that its individual members will not be at all sorry when Easter Sunday puts an end to the Reverend Father's orations.

Father Herbert, however, is, from all accounts, a preacher well worth hearing, and, being a young man, is looked upon as the hope of his order in England, the Servites having no other member of their congregation who can rival him in point of eloquence.

The preacher at the Private Chapel, Windsor Castle, yesterday, was the Rev. H. Montagu Butler, Head-Master of Harrow.

THE SOUTHWARK CHAPLAINCY.—There are, happily, very few London parishes where the incumbent is chosen by popular election. Clerkenwell is one of them, and a few years ago exercised its choice in a manner which at the time deserved and received the disapproval of all responsible men. It is now the turn of Southwark, and it may be opportune to suggest to the parishioners of the ancient

chaplaincy of St. Saviour's that a very solemn trust is thus placed in their hands. The Church of St. Saviour is one of the noblest ecclesiastical edifices in London, and might appropriately serve as the cathedral for South London. The parish attached to it has a population of over 15,000, and there are many other reasons why the clergyman placed in the position of Chaplain of St. Saviour's should be a man of learning, energy, power and dignity.

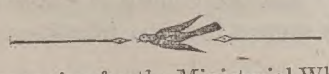
The addresses of three of the candidates are before us and we must confess that not one of them has a sound, healthy, manly ring about it. They are all of the namby-pamby order of religious literature, and abundantly interlarded with orthodox texts. One of the candidates cannot even write English, and we beg to remind him that the name of the historian is not usually spelt "Macauley."

To descend to detail, it may be remarked that the Rev. Robert Louis Saurin Cloquet is the writer of one of the addresses in question. Would he kindly explain this sentence of his manifesto: "After some years as a student at King's College, London, and the University of Cambridge"? Does Mr. Cloquet wish it to be understood that he was ever a student at Cambridge? If so, was he? When? At what college? According to *Crockford*, the accepted authority on these matters, his own connection with Cambridge consists in having passed the Preliminary Examination for Holy orders, admission to which in no way involves residence at the University. Mr. Cloquet has penned an important sentence; but as a few lines later he expresses his wish "to speak out plainly and distinctly, and without equivocation or reservation" on the subject of his religious opinions, he should have been equally precise on a matter of fact.

The Rev. Samuel Wainwright, D.D., is also a candidate. In *Crockford* the name of this gentleman is marked with a prefix, which signifies that he has not responded to the editor's request for the details of his clerical career. "St. Bees, 1854" is the single indication of his preparation for the ministry. Whence then the "D.D." and the accompanying hood? Did the Rev. Samuel Wainwright apply for this distinction, or was it sent to him? Did it cost anything? All this apart, it is much to be hoped that the parishioners of St. Saviour's, among whom are many Roman Catholics, will remember that these are not the days when the Church of England can afford to call names and to stir up strife.

Of the Rev. W. Thompson, M.A., who has for some time been practically in sole charge of the parish, not much need be said. He is an active, well-meaning clergyman, and cannot be blamed for seeking the position at which he now aims. But, in a word, he is not *the* man. He is pledged to a particular and narrow school of thought, and the custody of a famous church and a vast population should be committed to some one of broader sympathies.

One last word. In the original circular issued to intending candidates it was expressly required that the person elected should be a graduate of some University in the United Kingdom. At whose instigation, and by whose authority, has an amended circular been just put forth in which this *proviso* does not find place?



An early suggestion for the Ministerial Whitebait Dinner at Greenwich, 1881.

When to "Trafalgar" or the "Ship"
Our rulers make their annual trip,
This year, methinks, the foremost dish
Should not be "bait," but *scuttle* fish.

Courts and Courtiers.

Her Majesty, accompanied by Princess Beatrice, leaves Windsor to-morrow for Osborne, where it is expected she will stay until after Easter, going to Balmoral in May.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales arrives in London to-day. The Princess remains with the Duchess of Edinburgh at St. Petersburg.

Bath is to have the honour of a visit from the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in July, on the occasion of the distribution of prizes at the Royal School for Officers' Daughters.

The Empress Eugénie visited the Queen at Windsor Castle on Saturday, and was met at the station by H.R.H. Princess Beatrice.

The Empress of Austria will probably do her hunting next year in Ireland, taking up her quarters at Kilkenny Castle.

Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein the Earl and Countess of Morley, Lady Southampton, Viscount Torrington, Major-General St. John, and Lady Cowell, had the honour of dining with Her Majesty on Saturday.

The Duke and Duchess of Cleveland have arrived in town, and among the early arrivals expected are Lady Alfred and the Misses Paget, and Mr. and Lady Catherine Clive.

Earl and Countess Wilton gave a dinner party at Melton Mowbray for the Croxton Park Races, at which there were present the Marchioness of Ailesbury, Earl and Countess Cadogan, Lord Carrington, Lord and Lady Charles Beresford, and other guests.

Lord Lonsdale is returning from his yachting cruise in the West Indies, and is expected shortly to reach Cannes. The Countess of Hopetown has just arrived at that place.

Lord Winmarleigh is recovering from the serious illness brought on by the severe cold caught during the heavy snowstorms of a few weeks ago, when his lordship was snow-blocked between London and Preston. His lordship's condition was at one time so critical as to cause grave apprehension amongst his friends.

The Lord Bishop of Oxford confirmed upwards of 150 young noblemen and gentlemen at Eton on Saturday. The names of the aspirants included Lord William Augustus Cavendish-Bentinck, Lord Henry Pelham-Clinton, and Count D. B. Burowski.

The following distinguished noblemen and gentlemen were present at the meeting of the committee, presided over by Prince Leopold, on Saturday, for promoting the projected Loan Exhibition of Spanish and Portuguese Ornamental Art,—the Spanish Ambassador, Lord Lytton, Sir Henry Layard, Colonel Arthur Ellis, Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, Mr. R. A. Thompson, the Secretary, and Sir Philip Cunliffe Owen.

A marriage has been arranged between Mr. Edward Stanley Hope, and the second daughter of Sir John Leslie, Bart., M.P.

A marriage is arranged between Miss Bischoffsheim and the Earl of Desart.

Gossip of Town.

ILLNESS OF LORD BEACONSFIELD.

Lord Beaconsfield was visited by his physicians at six last evening and again at nine, after which they held a consultation, and a bulletin was issued stating that during the day his lordship had undergone a return of spasm, by which he had been depressed for some hours, but sleep had subsequently supervened, and this had so far refreshed the patient that he was able to take nourishment, and at 10 o'clock the symptoms generally maintained the favourable aspect of the morning.

At one o'clock this morning Lord Beaconsfield was sleeping quietly, and his general condition exhibited improvement.

At half-past nine his Lordship, having taken refreshment, was, in the opinion of his medical attendants, improving generally, though it will still require a strong effort of Nature to recover the ground lost by several days of such extreme weakness.

Eleven a.m.: All the latest symptoms give the doctors hopes of his Lordship's recovery.

Rashness resulted in several lamentable fatalities on the Thames on Saturday. Several rowing clubs were holding competitions in the afternoon about Chiswick, and the river, getting much agitated with heavy wind, the watermen begged of those in the pleasure craft to come ashore. In one case they got laughed at for their pains, but the scoffers soon paid for their folly by the capsizing of their boat, resulting in a young woman being drowned, while her companions were only rescued with difficulty. Four of the Grove House crew, who were out in an eight-oared cutter, were also drowned, and cries for help continued to be heard from time to time long after dark set in. The river was dragged after midnight on Saturday and during yesterday forenoon, with the result that four other bodies were brought to bank. Chiswick Mortuary, where they lay for identification, was visited by large crowds during the day.

Mr. George Augustus Sala arrived in Paris on Saturday, on his return from St. Petersburg.

The Lord Mayor will preside at Exeter Hall on Wednesday, at the 27th annual meeting on behalf of the Wesleyan Methodist Education Association.

On the following day there will be a big collection of Mayors in the same hall over a special public meeting of the National Temperance League. The Lord Mayor of York will be in the chair, and will be supported by the Mayors of Leeds, Huddersfield, Gateshead, Reading, Wakefield, Scarborough, Bootle, Poole, and Oswestry.

In India, as we have already said, the disappearance of a few elephants or waggons is thought nothing of. Indeed, it is on official record that once a number of barrack buildings were missing, and it has never been found out to this day by whom or when they were purloined.

A disappearance of considerable magnitude in London is now reported, for we hear that a quarter of a million of money belonging to the Patriotic Fund has "vanished quite away."

There is one wretched ray of comfort in the Nice catastrophe. It furnishes another argument against the detestable stuff we call "gas," which is so fatal to human life when it explodes, and so deadly to it when it doesn't

When *are* we to have a clear, wholesome, cheap and bright light—Messrs. Siemens, Joblachkoff, Swan, and Company?

At Glasgow, the other day, Mr. Swan read a paper before the Local Philosophical Society on electric lighting, one result of which was that a firm have entered into a contract for having the whole of its collieries at Earnock, near Hamilton, furnished with the Swan incandescent lamp. Is this the beginning of the end of colliery explosions?

Among the additions to the Zoological Society during the week are "a gigantic toad" and "a long-snouted snake." It is very pleasing to have these exotic persons just to look at when we wish to do so, but imagine living in the country where gigantic toads and long-snouted snakes grow!

A sambhur fawn has been born in the Gardens. Now, why is not this superb deer acclimatised? For majesty of bearing it has hardly an equal, and even in a Royal park would look more than Royal.

I was out once after bear in Central India, and my shikarries had put me on a flat platform of rock, across which Bruin might be expected to make his way. As the line of beaters came nearer and nearer it is impossible not to feel that the heart is beating faster, and to notice how sharply the least rustle of leaves or snapping of twigs strike on the highly-strung nerves. In this frame of mind, I was lying flat on the ground, rifle in hand, expecting at any moment to see a bear come shuffling along up the slight incline to my ambuscade, when suddenly, without the faintest warning of sound, there grew up close before my nose, and at the edge of the platform, a magnificent antlered head, with two immense dreamy eyes that looked me straight in the face for about ten seconds, and then suddenly vanished. A minute afterwards I heard the rattle of shingle far away down in the glen as the sambhur stag sped through the jungle.

But I was repaid for my forbearance—the etiquette of sport, indeed, demanded the sambhur's safety—for the next minute up came Bruin, grumbling, and his skin proved, after making up, in splendid condition.

The People's Entertainment Society held its second annual meeting on Saturday at the Grosvenor Gallery, with Sir Coutts Lindsay in the chair, supported by Lord Shaftesbury, Viscount Folkestone, Sir Julius Benedict, Sir H. Cole, C.B., the Right Hon. T. Brassey, M.P., Mr. Randegger, and Mr. H. Leslie. The report recorded the failure of the attempt to obtain entrance fees to the society's entertainments, and the consequent decision to make them free. Charges had been made at four concerts of a special character, which had been got up to aid the funds, and these had resulted in £420 being taken. Subscriptions and donations had further increased this sum by £350. The good accomplished by the society was stated to have led to the foundation of similar institutions in Manchester, Newcastle, and Winchester, while others are being contemplated in Liverpool and Nottingham.

Under the circumstances, therefore, we quite agree with Mr. Grey, M.P., "that the Council is justified in inviting further pecuniary support from the inhabitants of London and the suburbs."

An exhibition of articles and productions connected with the building trade, including architectural models and drawings, machinery, and materials of various kinds, specimens of decoration, fittings, fixtures, &c., will be opened to-day at the Agricultural Hal

The *Field* reports a curious dispute between the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway and the Lambeth Vestry respecting the Gipsy Hill Station, which is declared by the people of Gipsy Hill to be both inconvenient and dangerous, and which has long been a subject of complaint.

On Saturday night was held, at Willis's Rooms, the annual banquet of the Institution of Civil Engineers, with Mr. Abernethy, F.R.S.E., in the chair. The president, in opening the proceedings, condoled with the Duke of Edinburgh, who was to have been present at the dinner, on the reasons that kept him away; and then General Sir T. Seymour and Admiral Sir Cooper Key, replying for the Army and the Navy respectively, assured the public that, come what might, Britons never would be slaves; and that if favourable opportunities offered, Britannia would still rule the waves. When everybody had had another glass of champagne, and given over cheering these sentiments, Mr. Abernethy gave the toast of "The Ministers," whom he took the liberty of describing as "Those eminent men who, for the time being, at great sacrifice of personal convenience, and under constant mental strain, strive to conduct the multifarious affairs of this great country and its colonies, so as to maintain its prestige among other nations as the home of freedom, moral progress, and constitutional government."

This set the Civil Engineers cheering again, and Lord Kimberley was then found on his legs. The noble earl evaded the opportunity which was given him for showing how the Ministry had "maintained English prestige among other nations," using only one illustration to show our splendid influence abroad—namely, the effect of the telegraph wires upon the King of Ashantee, who thought little of our soldiers or our ships, but was filled with terror at the telegraph—concluding, in return for the compliment paid to the Ministry, by saying that the profession of the civil engineers was "amongst the greatest social and political forces the world had ever seen.',

The president, with his own peculiar happiness of phrase, then gave the toast of "The Legislature," whom he complimented upon "the great talent displayed by many of its members in the discussion of intricate and important questions, which," said Mr. Abernethy, "must be gratifying to every thinking man;" Lord Derby replying by a disquisition upon the loss of time in Parliament by members reading their questions.

Lord John Manners quoted some poetry, Mr. Spottiswoode replied for the guests, and the Lord Mayor for himself.

The last speech was the only good one of the evening, the speaker being the Hon. Mr. Lowell. It was about things in general, but was intelligent.

Nihilists in London.—If Sir William Harcourt had heard one half of what was said about him by the Socialists during the last two days he would say that Mr. John Devoy was mildness itself compared to the new species of "viper" that he is engaged in stamping out.

The new St. Patrick having—in his own opinion—completed the work of the original saint in Ireland, now wishes to do the same for England. He labours under a disadvantage, however, for the snakes' side of the story has not come down to us, whereas the "vipers" are making day and night hideous from Soho to Clerkenwell.

I must say, however, that at the Soho meeting the press came in for its share. One moon-faced youth in a velveteen coat was especially severe. He had been reading The Cuckoo, and thought the report not favourable enough, so, not content with the slaughter of an Emperor or two, he thirsted for the blood of editors. He would like "to see every lamp-post in London hung with them and their scribes."

This reminded me of Jack Cade, only if Shakespeare is to be trusted that gentleman could speak English. His representative in Soho, on the other hand, although bearing a German name, speaks the purest Whitechapel.

Only a few years ago, at Plevna, "copses wos layin' in thousands," and that was all the fault of the scribes. This point was not fully explained, but the audience took his word for it, and looked threateningly at a very harmless looking representative of the order who was at the table.

Other speakers showed themselves very simple by speaking of this reporter as a detective. When detectives go to a meeting they do not sit so conspicuously in front of the platform; nor do they go away in the middle of the talk as he did, thereby missing the best of the fun.

Any one who has been in New York lately has heard of Mr. Justus Schwab. A telegram from that gentleman was read at the end of the meeting, calling on them to "resist shameful tyranny." This impressed the meeting, but they were carried off their feet by the conclusion, "call at International Bank—money." They evidently considered the plain prose of the conclusion better than the eloquence of the opening.

Another thing the reporter missed was the little quarrel at the end. A small man in spectacles rose at the back and announced that he had called on Most that day, and reported on his condition. Then the young man in velveteen rose and insinuated that the little man could not be trusted, in fact, that Codlin was Most's friend, not Short. But the little man scored a point by saying "it did not look well that the whole committee had been on the platform talking, while none of them had called on the prisoner for conscience' sake."

From my point of view—a bird's-eye view, of course—the meeting seemed composed largely of mere on lookers. One speaker, whose pathos was received with a smile, recognised this, but hoped that "those who came to scoff might remain to pray." But I did not see any praying. Nor was there much paying, although the plates at the door were shaken invitingly. Probably, like Mr. Schwab, the visitors told the treasurer to call on their bankers.

A manifesto was finally decided upon. It states that "the Liberal Government of England, with Mr. Gladstone—defender of the Neapolitan prisoners, and champion of the Bulgarians—as Prime Minister, have yielded to the demands of the English Court party and Jingo press, and have joined in the International persecution of the Social Democratic party."

"The death of the Czar and the attitude of the Social Democratic party in regard to that event having afforded a long-sought-for pretext to reverse the traditional policy of England in affording an asylum to political refugees, whether Royalist or revolutionist. We are the working class agitators for a change in the condition of society; hence our property is seized and our leader thrown into prison in this country, hitherto the asylum of the persecuted, by a professedly Liberal Government, at the dictation of foreign despots."

Finally, after warning kings and statesmen of the danger of attacking Socialism, the manifesto concludes:—"The

English Court, through its marital alliances, especially with Russia, is tinged with the characteristics of the foreign autocracies, and already this influence has caused the Government to adopt a shameful course. Knowing the answer which was given to the same party when its efforts were used to procure the placing of an Imperial effigy in Westminster Abbey, we confidently await the answer of the English people to this attempt to suppress the liberty of the Press at the instigation of foreign Powers."

At the Arts Club.

A statue of Her Majesty, as a companion piece to Foley's statue of Prince Albert, already in position, is nearly finished for Birmingham. The sculptor is Mr. Woolner. It is larger than life, and in marble.

Her Majesty, the *Athenæum* tells us, is represented standing erect, with her head slightly raised. She looks, not abstractedly, yet intently and in an animated manner, to a distance, while her arms are crossed in a noble, simple, and graceful attitude. One of the hands drops, while the other holds, lightly and elegantly, part of the drapery. The erectness of the posture implies the setting back of the shoulders and the lofty poising of the head. Girt easily at the waist, and flowing in long continuous lines from the shoulders to the feet, the full, but not heavy, draperies descend in lines of the simplest stye, and all admirably studied, with subtle art, to give stability to the figure, and accord with the animated repose of the attitude.

Mr. Woolner has also, well forward towards completion, the mural tablet, with medallion profile, which is destined for the monument of Sir Edwin Landseer in the crypt of St. Paul's. Also a medallion three-quarter's view which "Our Club" has ordered in memory of Hepworth Dixon, for the chapel of Highgate Cemetery.

Mr. J. A. Acton has completed the memorial bust of the late Mr. George Cruickshank, and it will be placed, during the week in St. Paul's Cathedral.

The Society of Painter etchers at the Hanover Gallery, New Bond-street, is now open to the public; also the Society of British Artists in the Suffolk-street galleries. Most of the artists exhibiting at the latter have sent all their best things to Burlington House, and the result is pretty nearly what might have been expected. Among the exceptions are Mr. J. D. Watson and Mr. C. Cattermole, who are worthily represented.

Mr. Clark Russell, author of "The Wreck of the Grosvenor," is publishing another story, "An Ocean Free Lance." Good news.

Messrs. Sotheran and Co. have purchased from the estate of the late Mr. Severn his collection of the manuscripts, letters, and books of Keats. With these are two sketches of the poet taken by Mr. Severn.

As announced, the Guildhall Orchestral Society gave its concert on Saturday at the Mansion House, and a very successful one it was, thanks, to some extent, to the "professionals" who assisted the amateurs. But there is no doubt that Mr. Weist Hill deserves all the congratulations he has received.

Another and more strictly amateur concert was that given to a very large and yet select audience at St. James's Hall by the London Musical Society. Among the chief performers of the evening were Lady Folkestone, Mdlles A. Williams, J. Jones, and Wakefield, and the Hon. G. Spencer Lyttleton, and their success was unimpeachable.

No time has been lost by the promoters of the venture in advertising that a short season of German opera will be given at Drury-lane Theatre, under the direction of Herr Richter, in May and June, 1882. It is not proposed to perform Wagner's *Der Ring des Nibelungen*, but *Tristan und Isolde* and *Die Meistersinger* will be given, and also Beethoven's *Fidelio*.

Miss Annie Marriott, Madame Patey, Messrs. Joseph Maas, W. Wells, F. King, and Bretson, have been retained for the performance of *Samuel* at the next Concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society, to be given on Friday.

Professor Owen's splendid "Temple to Nature," in South Kensington, will be thrown open to the public on Easter Monday.

Its great halls and galleries are most of them still unfilled, but the geological, minerological, and fossil departments are already furnished with their superb collections; and for those who study the fascinating science of botany, the unrivalled treasures stored in the botanical department should prove a surpassing treat.

But the empty "Temple" itself, with its wonderful wealth of suggestive and beautiful ornamentation, borrowed from Nature, its colossal proportions and incomparable arrangement, is one of the most notable sights of London, and one of the most memorable monuments to a single individual's patience, public spirit, and scientific enthusiasm that the world has ever seen.

George Stephenson was born just a hundred years ago, and the centenary of the great Evangelist is to be celebrated at Newcastle in a practically useful manner. Besides the orthodox dinners, trade processions, and other outward and visible signs of public commemoration, steps are to be taken for establishing a Stephenson College, in which the "College of Physical Science," in connection with the University of Durham, now houseless, will find a home.

"Carados," of the *Referee*, writes—"Mr. Fred Berridge gives some 'Readings from the Poets and Humourists' on Monday evening, at the Eyre Arms Assembly Rooms. The programme includes my young friend Dagonet's 'Last Look,' and I'm told that Mr. Berridge can do it justice."

A competition announced by the *Chicago Tribune* promises, in so many words, with modest pride and confidence, "to bring out the finest fields of poets ever seen, and to lower the record of many styles of poesy."

Serving as it does to illustrate how a Yankee jester *can* grin upon occasion—through a horse-collar when the very nature of his "goak" suggests one—I am tempted to give at least an extract from his highly-elaborated programme. Take among the entries, therefore, the following :—

The Nursery Stakes.—For poets of 12 years old and under; one stanza of four or nine lines; 10 cents entrance, half forfeit, with 2 dols. 50 cents added.

The Wisconsin Derby.—For Wisconsin poets only, all ages; six stanzas of sentimental verse; weight for age; 5 dols. entrance, p.p., with 40 dols. added.

The Filly Stakes.—For poetesses only; three or nine stanzas on a subject to be named at the post: 3 dols. entrance, half forfeit, with 30 dols. added.

The Madrigal Handicap.—For all ages, subject to be

pastoral, and treatment non-Swinburnian; 4 dols. entrance p.p., with 20 dols. added.

The Obituary Sweepstakes.—Open to all obituary poets, each entry to write at least four stanzas, which may be on one or different subjects, as desired; all stanzas to be four lines in length, second and last lines to rhyme; no stanzas commencing "Put away our Johnny's," &c., will be considered. In this sweepstakes George W. Childs is barred; entrance free.

The Epic St. Leger.—For all ages; each contestant to furnish an epic of half a column or more, which shall treat of current events. Winners of the Wisconsin Derby or Madrigal Handicap barred.

The Lyric Steeplechase.—Thirteen verses straight away and over three hurdles, in the shape of particular words to which rhymes must be found. Poets refusing the first hurdle not allowed to start again. Welter weights; 10 dols. entrance, p.p., with 40 dols. added.

An amateur performance of Von Moser's popular comedy in four acts, entitled *Der Bibliothekar*, is to be given in the German language at St. George's Hall on Friday, the 8th instant, in aid of the funds of the German Hospital at Dalston and the German "home" in Finsbury-square. A selection of music will be played on the occasion by the Royal Amateur Orchestral Society.

At the suggestion of the Law Amendment Society, the dramatic authors held a meeting on Friday last to consider whether it is advisable to insert in the proposed draft Copyright Bill a clause forbidding the unauthorised adaptation of novels. The Dramatic Authors' Society were, says the *Daily News*, in favour of the clause as embodied in the abortive Bill of the late Government. Mr. Gilbert was one of the members who most strongly supported this proposed act of justice.

Go and see *Branded* at the Princess's.

It is worth going, if only to see the audience, and Sanger's horses, and the chapel tumble down.

The horse is a noble animal, but when frightened by brazen instruments and gaslights he will not do so.

It is time that we had an antidote to "sentimental drivel" on the stage, and we certainly advise our readers who don't know how to shiver to go and enjoy a fit at the Princess's.

If the lancers, and the dead march, and the hullabaloo generally do not do this, we cannot say what will.

One of the curious features of this horse and gunpowder melodrama is that the author does not seem to have known during the first half of his play what he is going to do in the second half, and that the ladies and gentlemen who act his characters have not yet found out what he really meant in either.

The Day's Amusements.

The Cambridge crew had a good spin against a scratch eight on Saturday, and displayed very fine form, while the Oxonians simply took a couple of turns between Grove Park and Kew. The latter are said to have improved wonderfully within the last day or two, though, strange to say, the betting is not so much in their favour as before, being quoted at 6 to 4 on. It strikes me this means that all the outside money is on, and now pencillers are bent upon hedging a bit.

We are requested to again draw attention to the University Boatrace Commemoration Dinner, which is to take place at the Freemason's Tavern on the 7th inst. As we have already stated, it will be strictly confined to those who have represented the University at Putney, Henley, or in the Thames Regatta; and we may now mention that a steamer for the exclusive use of the guests will accompany the race next morning.

At the Inter-University sports the officials on the part of Oxford will be—steward, C. N. Jackson, of Hertford; judge, Rev. E. J. R. Nicolls, of Christ Church; referee, Hon. W. N. Bruce, Balliol. For Cambridge the Rev. W. H. Churchill will officiate as starter. Mr. Jackson will soon be regarded as the methuselah of athletes, but the clerics are both fresh from their laurels.

The next few days will be replete with inter-'Varsity contests of one kind and the other. With the chess match on Wednesday, sports on Thursday, boat race on Friday, and shooting handicap cup at Notting-hill on Saturday, this week will be pretty well occupied, while to-morrow week the Oxford and Cambridge four-handed racquet match takes place at Prince's, to be followed the day after with the single-handed match.

G. Webb, Ware (Pembroke), with 11 yards start, won the 150 yards strangers' handicap on Saturday at Ley's School Sports, held at Cambridge. The time given was 14 4-5ths sec., which is very warm indeed, and it is, therefore, not to be wondered at that Slovey and Macaulay, the two C.U.A.C. cracks, who were running in the same race, were entirely extinguished.

The new ground in the Parks of the Oxford University Cricket Club is to be ready for use during the coming season, but the old ground will still be retained for practice.

The London Athletic Club's Spring Meeting held on Saturday was a big success, the winners being:—120 yards members' handicap—J. F. B. Ritchie, 2½ yds. start; time, 12 3-5 secs. 600 yards open handicap—E. B. Hanley, 30 yds. start; time, 1 min. 18 3-5 sec. One mile open bicycle handicap—J. D. Butler, 120 yds. start; time, 3 min. 15 secs. Two miles open walking handicap—R. Coombes, L.A.C., 10 secs. start; time, 15 mins. 9 1-5 secs. Seven miles open running handicap—G. M. Nehan, 35 secs. start; net time, 37 mins. 38 4-5 secs.: this latter performance is a best on record, beating previous best by 4 1-5 secs.

The London Rowing Club opened their season proper on Saturday last, when a couple of eights simply did the processional just to "top the boundaries."

The London Rowing Club have to thank their President, Lord Londesborough, who has provided a splendid little launch for the club's use, bearing the not inappropriate name of *Princess of Wales*. She is, indeed, a beauty.

The West London Rowing Club commences their summer season to-day, and, following the example of other Clubs, have just completed a boathouse of their own at Putney. This is the club, by the way, which incurred the wrath of the Leander Boat Club some years ago by appearing at Henley in colours similar to their own.

The eight lives that were lost at Chiswick Eyot on Saturday, should serve as a warning to the inexperienced never to go a-boating when the water is really rough. It is not sufficient to know that you are a good swimmer, for at such times as these it is all-important to be able to

manage the craft all right, as once get thrown out into water in the condition of that of Saturday, and no amount of expertness in the art of swimming will avail you.

The principal race meetings this week are Durham to-day and to-morrow, and Northampton to-morrow and Wednesday. At the last-named meeting Earl Spencer's Plate and the Great Northamptonshire Stakes are the two chief races; the former should go to Œnone or St. Augustine, while the latter looks like a good thing for either Schoolboy or The Star.

The wagering in the City and Suburban is still as big a puzzle as ever, the only horse said to be backed steadily and in thorough good faith being Bend Or, whose victory would be very popular, as it would knock the bottom out of some of the uniquely laid little schemes of a certain section of wire-pullers. Fernandez is carrying a lot of money at long odds, and Out of Bounds has come in for recognition to a good sum, while, on the other hand, Post Obit, Ambassadress, and Petronel are all on the down-hill journey.

Lord Aylesford entertained a large company of "fashionables" at Packington Steeplechases, on Saturday, when some moderate sport only was witnessed. The Packington Handicap Steeplechase was won by Mr. Cecil Howard's Quibble, this being the really only important event of the day.

Mr. T. Spence, the popular gentleman jockey, met with an accident when hunting in Lincolnshire on Saturday, and it is feared that his injuries are internal.

J. Potter, the jockey, who met with an accident at Bromley last week, is a remarkable case. From information last night, I heard that it is possible he may live for years, although his *spine is broken*. It is needless to add that he will never be able to move about again.

Fred Archer rode the winner of the first race at the Paris Spring Meeting yesterday (Sunday). He was also successful in another race during the day.

Lord de Clifford's horses are struck out of all handicaps at Northampton.

A very good Rugby Football Match was played at Putney on Saturday, between teams representing Commerce and the Stock Exchange. Neither side obtained anything beyond a try, and at call of "no side" the verdict was a draw. E. T. Gurden, late of Cambridge University, played up well for Commerce. The Stock Exchange "big guns" mustered in force for the occasion.

Carver and Scott are being "shown" round under the conditions that regulated their big glass ball encounter. They put in Friday and Saturday nights at Manchester, when the totals at the call of time were: Carver, 1,403 out of 1,500; Scott, 1,390 out of 1,500. They are to appear at Hengler's Circus, Liverpool, this and to-morrow evenings. It is not true that P. T. Barnum has made an engagement with them to star the mighty cities of the States for three years. One thing is certain, Phineas would not advertise £2,000 as the amount of the prize money, when an all round *two millions* would be so much prettier reading.

Mr. F. Leighton shot remarkably well at Notting-hill on Saturday, winning the Gun Club's £25 Handicap with a straightaway kill of nine birds at 28 yards rise. Captain Money, Mr. Turner-Turner, Captain Shelley, Sir Harry Bunard, and one or two other noted shots, were put out of the competition early through misses.

The East Kent Gun Club has not prospered—at least, I infer so from the fact that it has just been decided to break up the club, to sell its property, and to hand over the proceeds to the hospital.

The School Board has not quite done all that is required of it yet or there would be no market for affairs like the following:—"On Wednesday next, at Northampton, a pedestrian will attempt to walk 5½ miles in one hour, and to carry a two-gallon stone bottle neck downwards on his bare head, the bottle not to be more than two inches and a-half, and he not allowed to touch it or drop it from start to finish." *Cui bono?*

A "Professional Athletic Club" is the latest innovation into the pedestrian world. It has been formed by several of the what are known as "go-for-money boys;" for what purpose I know not, but if it succeeds in educating "professionalism" up to a sense of what constitutes honourable dealing, success should be the ultimate result.

Mr. Herbert Crawshay, youngest son of the late Dean Forest Ironmaster, has determined to start a pack of harriers to run over Major Price's old county. The hounds will be purchased at once, and hares will be put down in all necessary places. The kennels are to be established at Broadoak, near Newnham-on-Severn.

The Guildford coach starts running on the 9th of April, the Dorking coach on Easter Monday, and the Windsor coach on May 2nd.

In the City.

Who does not know the Bodegas? They are to be sold to a company with a capital of £200,000.

The Rothschild influence is here, there, and everywhere. Its latest phase is the development of Indian railway enterprise. Again the Rothschilds are to assist the Government, and, as with the Suez Canal transaction, they cannot be said to have much the worst of the bargain. The Calcutta, Jessore, and Koolna Railway Loan will be issued in a day or so.

"Lonibards"—the shares, I mean—have reached 10. English investors would be glad to know the reason, and Austrian financiers to understand the analogy between cause and effect.

The Brush electric light seems to have pleased everyone. On Friday the shares opened at 1⅞ premium, and by mid-day had actually reached 3 premium. "Gas Lights" have suffered accordingly. Buyers at even 165 were very scarce. Since last December the fall is nearly 20. Is that mystery, the light of the future, solved? Jontin says—"Wait!"

The unexampled plethora of idle wealth was never more convincingly demonstrated than by the Crown Agents for the Colonies offering a Tasmanian Loan at 4 and a Fiji Loan at 4½ per cent. But a decade ago, and 6 per cent. might have been offered without a bidder. From what I hear both loans may probably be over-subscribed.

Investors may do worse than turn their attention to Insurance Company shares. They pay fair dividends, and what is more, divide profits; and with good times before us, the latter may be, to use a Johnsonian phrase, "potentially consequential."

Very little has been said about the enthusiastic meeting against foreign bounties at the Assembly Hall,

Mile-end-road, on Wednesday evening. The hall was packed with British workmen more than 2,000 strong, who received enthusiastically Lord Claud Hamilton's onslaught upon one-sided free-trade, and his allusions to the effect of railways and the discovery of gold upon the prosperity of countries which adopted protection, as well as upon our own, which still clings to one-sided free-trade. Letters of apology for their absence from Mr. Cameron, the Marquis of Salisbury, Sir Stafford Northcote, Sir John Lubbock, Mr. Edward Clarke, Mr. Samuel Morley, Colonel Makins, Mr. Edward Whiteley, Mr. Fawcett, Mr. James Bryce, Lord Derby, &c, those of Lord Derby and Professor Fawcett eliciting hisses.

BI-METALLISM.—A statement is going the round of the foreign press to the effect that England will make several material concessions. It is said that four-shilling pieces will be coined on the basis of 15½; that bi-metallism on the same terms will be adopted in India; that silver will be made legal tender for double the present limit; and, lastly, that the Bank of England will hold a considerable portion of its revenue in that metal. To this I say, "The wish is father to the thought," but as regards India some concession is probable.

Is it possible that over eighty per cent. of the registered friendly societies are practically insolvent? But the last report from the Registrar of Friendly Societies shows that out of 948 quiquennial valuation returns, 786 showed that on a 3 per cent. basis—the only fair test—the liabilities exceeded the assets.

Cuckoo Notes.

The next examination of candidates for admission to the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, will commence on Thursday, the 23rd June next, the medical inspection taking place at the Academy on the previous day. There will be 40 vacancies to be competed for.

The publication of the story of the Home Secretary and the pistol has led to the commission of numerous practical jokes upon various members of the Government. One of them yesterday received a letter containing some white powder, enclosed in a paper, which bore in German the words "*Freiheit's* tribute." The deadly stuff, after having been examined by the nearest chemist, was pronounced to be a rather dirty sample of crushed loaf sugar.

A meteor of great splendour is reported from Eastbourne. Its colour was an imperial purple, and it moved across the sky with a stately deliberation, that gave observers full opportunity to take their notes before it burst. The fragments, five or six in number, each of the size of a star of the third magnitude, flared for a second fiery red, and then vanished from sight.

Another remarkable natural phenomenon, of which we have seen no notice whatever in the scientific papers, was reported a fortnight ago from Middlesbrough. One of the eye-witnesses writes:—

"On the afternoon of a particularly bright day, the air being calm and the sun shining, three platelayers were at work with the permanent way inspector (Mr. W. Ellinor), near the signal-box of the siding, when Mr. Ellinor drew their attention to a rushing or roaring sound overhead, which they had scarcely time to notice when it ceased, and a thud in the ground near them following it almost immediately, convinced them that a heavy body of some sort had flown down through the air and struck the earth at no great distance from them. The men strayed together towards the point where the ground seemed to have been struck, and at a distance of forty eight yards from where they first stood, one of the men, Frank Henwood, saw from the field at the foot of the slight embankment of the line the mouth of a round vertical hole into which a man's arm might be thrust.

"His companion, H. Obren, sounded the hole with his hand, but he withdrew it immediately on feeling the hole and the body at the bottom of it to be heated, or, as he describes them both to have been when he felt them about three minutes after the fall took place, 'about new milk warm.'

"After a few moments' hesitation, Obren again dived for the object with his hand, and loosening it easily with his fingers drew out the occupant from the hole.

"It is a beautifully perfect meteorite; of a low pyramidal or shell-like shape, measuring about five inches by six inches, and about three inches high, and weighing about three and a half pounds. The grey basaltic stone of which it consists internally is, as usual, completely swathed and enveloped in a thin black molten crust, which hides from the eye its true stony character, the latter being only visible here and there at its frayed edges."

Grey parrots are not domestic animals. No cruelty is intended to grey parrots if they are kept without water. *Ergo*, the man who sends grey parrots from Liverpool to London without supplying them with water *en route* is not amenable to the strictures of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. Such was the recent finding of two juries in a grey-parrot case before them.

It is true that there are parrots who can do without water for an uncommonly long time, but it would, perhaps, be safer in the interests of grey ones if they were at once scheduled as domestic animals within the meaning of the statute, and deprivation of water were at once taken to constitute cruelty.

Passing strange it is that three of the "active section" of the Land Leaguers—Messrs. Parnell, Finigan, and T. P. O'Connor—should be in quest of widows of reputed wealth. Mr. Biggar declares he does not find fault with "the boys" for trying to settle themselves, but he cannot tolerate their selection of "faimales of foreign extraction." *He* has always avoided them.

Cats are a tremendous theme, and Mr. Mivart, who has lately published a book on the subject, is a bold man. Take for instance the chapter on pussy's "Place in Nature." This, to be complete, should introduce us to the kitchen, and this, of course, would necessitate a general sketch of the character of cooks and, by association, policemen. Indeed, the aspects of the harmless, necessary cat are so numerous as almost to forbid classification; for whether we consider it as an animal that, by its evasive habits, defies municipal taxation, or as the scourge of the sparrow folk, as the melancholy Romeo of the moonlit square, or as the client of the cat's-meat man, Grimalkin, even in her social aspects, is connected with so many diverse interests, that it is difficult to understand how all can be brought under one head. Quite apart from the fact that all the tiger family are cats, and that the records of witchcraft are abundantly associated with this animal, the hexicology of the cat is sufficiently bewildering.

Hexicology, we may explain, is a portmanteau word,

and means all this: "the complex relations to time, space, physical forces, other organisms, and surrounding conditions generally," and we think that when we have said this, we have said enough to persuade those of our readers who are thinking of keeping any of their kittens, not to do so, but to drown them all.

It is easy enough to talk in a general way of the vast importance of our railway system, but how many of us, as a matter of fact, ever realise its real importance? This, however, may be easily accomplished if we only remember that the paid-up capital of our railways amounts to something more than the whole of the national debt, that the sum spent in keeping up the lines is greater than the total cost of our army and navy, and that the number of passengers who travel every year is 17 times larger than the entire population of the British Isles, and finally, that the public pay yearly for the privileges of travelling as much as they pay for the total annual cost of the administration of the kingdom.

It is a question, however, whether these tremendous statistics represent all that they should to the national advantage.

Colonel Drummond Hay has just published an opportune protest against the destruction of the waterfowl of the estuary of the Tay. Having lived so long on the spot, the writer puts his finger confidently on the causes of the rapid destruction of bird life, and charges the local "gunners" with constant disregard of the close season, and others with similar illegal destruction of sea-birds eggs and young.

It must not be forgotten that against the birds it is argued that they commit great havoc among the spawn and fry of fish. But, even admitting this, the question is a simple one of law-breaking.

The following circumstances, which were narrated to me yesterday by one of the superior officers of the Court of Chancery, recall the method of procedure adopted by the circumlocution office; but are, if possible, rather more absurd than any of the chronicled vagaries of that imaginary department.

Some time ago, the officer in question found that his favourite chair was in a shaky condition, and required either the tightening of a screw or the application of a little glue. He spoke to the care-taker, who thereupon laid before him for signature a form of requisition for repairs, addressed to the Board of Trade. The document was then copied and despatched; and, a week later, a gentlemanly-looking man arrived, inspected the chair, and departed to report upon it.

Ten days passed. One morning two individuals appeared upon the scene, and held a consultation. After a quarter of an hour's examination and conversation, they too departed, promising that the matter should be seen to. Another fortnight elapsed; and finally my friend's chair was satisfactorily mended. He tells me that he estimates that he could have had the operation performed for twopence.

The pig's revenge is a delightful euphuism for trichinosis. But a writer on the subject having regard to the form of the pig's teeth and to its character when wild, states his opinion that taming them and fattening them up for market is an outrage against their nature, for which the swine revenge themselves by entertaining trichinæ and other disagreeable parasites.

We certainly agree with the writer that the moral responsibility which man assumes when he ventures to interfere with pig character is very serious, but, nevertheless, we think the porkers are very mean in their method o retaliation.

Among the sales of the week reported by our contemporary *Land* is that of Nos. 24, 26, and 28, Regent-street, for £21,300. The lease has 35 years to run.

A horse at Fairbault, Minn., turned loose in his master's door-yard, saw a basket hanging on a clothes-pole about seven feet from the ground. It contained a pet cat belonging to the place. The horse walked over to the basket, put his nose up to investigate, and the cat put out her paw and gave the intruding nose a lively scratch. The horse turned around, looked back over his shoulder as though to take aim and measure the distance, kicked, and cat, basket, and all shot into the air like a rocket. The horse watched the success of his shot, then gave a low whinny of delight, and walked away to feed. This is an instance of "intelligence" in a brute.

Yet another connecting link between the army of to-day and the times of Wellington has been severed by the death of Joseph Brint, whose active military services extend over the interval from Corunna to Waterloo.

The Royal United Service Institution held a meeting on Friday afternoon, to hear a paper by Capt. Walter H. James, on "The Best Means of Adapting the Existing Military Forces to the Requirements of the Empire."

It will be interesting to general readers to learn that the force required for the adequate protection of the British empire is estimated at 530,000 men.

Sir Garnet Wolseley, who presided, instanced several defects in our army organisation which will soon be remedied, among these being the conversion of the linked battalion system into double battalions, the gradual assimilation of the volunteers with the territorial regiments, the stoppage of the system of moving regiments from town to town, and the longer residence of regiments abroad, the two latter reforms being with the object of reducing the expense of moving troops.

The iron deposits of Cleveland are literally a mine of wealth to some of the owners of the land in which they are worked. Thirty years ago the value of the Upleatham property to the Dundas family could have been little beyond that of agricultural land: but it is believed that at the present time the Earl of Zetland is receiving over £8,000 yearly as royalties from the mines worked by one firm in the hills at Upleatham—a remarkable instance of the added increment which mining gives to the income of the landowners.

Law and Police.

Most people, after all, are either married, or intend to be some day, and the following case, therefore, may be said to have nearly universal interest.

It appears that a brutal fellow named Corfield had abused his wife continually, and had systematically refused to contribute to her support. Not content with this, he had made himself a drag upon her, so that the poor woman had ultimately been forced to leave him. On Saturday the ruffian went up to her at the flowerstall outside a public-house, in Islington, where she tried to earn the means of livelihood, and without any provocation, but of sheer malice, overturned her basket of flowers on to the street, and then stamped upon them, declaring with an oath that his wife should not "earn her own living."

When placed in the dock, on Saturday, Corfield made no attempt at denial or evasion, but impudently opined

"that a man could do what he liked with his own." His wife did not choose to live with him, and therefore she "must take the consequences."

Mr. Corfield had, however, overgauged his conjugal privileges. The stipendiary did not agree with him, and fined him 32s., including costs, and as the money was not forthcoming, he was removed in custody.

In the opening of the case, the prosecuting counsel remarked, for Mr. Corfield's benefit, and for the benefit of those whom it might concern, that these proceedings were instituted under the Married Women's Property Act, 1870; the 11th section of which provides that a married woman may maintain an action in her own name for the recovery of any wages, earnings, money, and property, and she shall have in her own name the same remedies, both civil and criminal, against all persons whomsoever for the protection and security of such wages, earnings, money, and property, and of any chattels or other property purchased or obtained by means thereof for her own use as if such wages, earnings, money, &c., belonged to her as an unmarried woman.

We have already stated that steps have been taken to intercept the Anchor Line steamer, *Australia*, which is supposed to have on board one Coleman, who is suspected of being implicated in the attempt to blow up the Lord Mayor. We see now that both the United States and Canada Governments have been requested by the London police to assist in effecting the capture.

Perhaps it was the rumour of this man's implication that led to the report that the box was not filled with gunpowder, but with coaldust.

It appears to us that the Westminster Aquarium has something like a case against the members of the musical club called "The Troubadours."

This club, being a very private one indeed, very fashionable, and very exclusive, have allowed a case, "Eisler *v.* Bennet," to come into the Common Pleas Division, in which the details of their arrangements, and the *personnel* of the club performers, were duly set forth, and the squabble which gave rise to this publicity was of a particulary ridiculous kind.

It appears that Mr. Eisler was one of the original "Troubadours," and for its very fashionable and exclusive character, the following facts, which we take from a contemporary's report of the case, will vouch:—"The performing members of the club had their names arranged in three columns, each column of which was headed by a lady of title, and their names were followed by those of ladies of fashion and position, including more than one London beauty, and also the daughter of a judge. Then came the performing gentlemen, among whom were, of course, those who composed the military contingent—colonels, captains, and majors—and it appeared that occasionally, whilst ladies sang, a colonel in the Dragoon Guards presided at the pianoforte."

Mr. Eisler, it appears, had fallen in arrears with his subscription, and this seems to have been used as a plea for cancelling his election, and the plaintiff found himself afterwards "cut" by various acquaintances. One of these at last told him that the reason of his being tabooed was that Lord Bennet had said that the Troubadours had been insulted by Mr. Eisler asking one of the lady members to dine at the Aquarium.

The plaintiff, moreover, alleged that besides loss of acquaintances, he had also suffered loss in invitations to various ladies' houses, all of whose names were duly set forth in this ridiculous case.

How much further the absurdity would have gone it is hard to tell, but at the conclusion of the plaintiff's evidence, Counsel put their heads together and an amicable settlement was arrived at, the only parties disgusted being the jury, who said their time had been wasted.

The Thames Police-court had the monotony of its proceedings a little relieved on Saturday by an incident which afforded some amusement as well to magistrate, counsel, and officials, as to the loafers behind the bar.

A short, elderly lady, stepped into the witness-box, and, making a profound curtsey to Mr. Lushington, said: I'm just a little deaf, sir.—His Worship (loudly): What is it you want, ma'am?—Applicant: Just a little deaf, sir; only a little.—Mr. Lushington (to the chief usher): Ask her what she wants.

Mr. Odell, therefore, called as loudly as he could into the applicant's ear, "His Worship wishes to know what it is you want."—Applicant (bridling): Don't shout at me, sir! I want to ask the magistrate's advice. My son, who has been away from London for a very long time is now coming up to live in the metropolis, and I want to leave the house where I have been living and go and live with him.

The Magistrate: Then why don't you get away from your present residence?—Applicant: I beg your pardon, sir.—The Usher (bawling at the top of his voice): His worship says why don't you get away?—Applicant: Yes, sir, very fine day.—The Usher (with increased energy): Why don't you leave the house you are living in now, if you want to do so?—Applicant: Oh! I beg your pardon, sir; but the people won't let me take my things away. I do not owe them any rent, but they will not let me go. I am 73 years of age, and I think I am capable of managing my own affairs by this time.

Ultimately his worship directed one of the warrant officers to go down and make inquiry into the matter, and the lady departed satisfied.

Bow-street, too, had its little diversion, contributed by applications of a somewhat unusual character.

One was by a man who said he had lived with a woman and they had quarrelled. This created no surprise, and the candidate for magisterial advice proceeded to say that he wished to have the opinion of Mr. Flowers as to whether he—not Mr. Flowers, but the applicant—could leave the woman.

The magistrate informed the fellow that, not being married, he was perfectly free to take what action he pleased in the matter, and further volunteered the observation that the applicant was better off in that respect than many people who had acted more morally, and who had the trouble and expense of going through the Divorce Court before they could get rid of similar disagreeable connections.

Exit applicant, with beaming countenance.

A few things we should like to know:—

Will Mr. Bradlaugh, if re-elected for Northampton, take the oath?

When will the Lord Mayor's Court be abolished altogether?

Would another old pistol suffice to send Sir William Vernon Harcourt into the private life which he would adorn?

Six per Cent. Debenture Bonds.

THE

WESTERN DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY,

LIMITED.

PORCHESTER HOUSE, 63, 65, & 67, BISHOP'S-ROAD, BAYSWATER, LONDON.

Issue of £13,000 Debenture Bonds of £10 Each.

Repayable in six years, carrying interest at the rate of six per cent. per annum. The Coupons attached to the Bonds will be payable to the bearer of a Bond half-yearly at the Society's Bankers, the National Bank, Notting-hill-gate, on the 25th day of September, and on the 25th day of March in each year. Issue price of Bonds par.

Share capital of the Society £10,000 of £1 each. 7,654 shares have been subscribed, £7,654 paid up.

The issue of these Debenture Bonds is made under the authority given to the Board of Directors, by the 75th Article Sub-Section H of the Articles of Association, and has been sanctioned by a General Meeting of Shareholders held on the 26th day of March, 1881.

The Directors of the WESTERN DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY, LIMITED, invite subscriptions for the above-mentioned Mortgage Debentures with interest coupons attached.

The Society purchased the three leases of the valuable property known as Porchester House, Nos. 63, 65, and 67, Bishop's-road, Bayswater, with frontages to Bishop's-road and Inverness-terrace. This property is held under three several leases. As to 63 and 65, Bishop's-road for an unexpired term of about 60 years, at a yearly ground rent of £15 per annum each; and No. 67 is held by under lease for a term of 21 years, from the 25th March, 1867, at a rental of £300.

The said property is mortgaged for sums amounting to £8,000.

Assets as per Balance Sheet passed at the General Meeting held on March 26th, 1881:—

	£	s.	d.
The estimated value of the leases calculated at 14 years' purchase is	9,425	8	8
The Society has expended on the premises for various improvements the sum of	634	11	4
Cost of fittings, &c.	1,163	0	9
Cost of furniture	679	12	7
Value of stock in hand on the 26th day of February, at cost price	4,744	0	3
Making a total value of assets, subject to Mortgages of £8,000..	£16,646	13	7

The Society consists of 1,700 members, and which number is increasing. The weekly sales at the present time now average about £1,200, and the profits thereon are sufficient not only to enable the Society to pay its pay, but also to leave a surplus available for dividends.

The objects the Society has in view in making the present issue of Debenture Bonds are as follows:—

To further extend the operation of the Society by opening new departments, and to extend the lease of No. 67 to the same unexpired term as the leases of Nos. 63 and 65.

To pay off or reduce the existing mortgages on the leasehold premises of £8,000 out of all sums in excess of £5,000 received by the Society from the issue of the said Debentures, and so far as the same may extend, and thus effect a saving of interest.

If the amount subscribed be sufficient to pay off the existing mortgage these Debenture Bonds will be a first and preference charge on all the Society's assets, but in the event of such a sufficient sum not being raised as will allow the Directors to fully pay off the Mortgages they will be issued subject to such balance of Mortgage as may remain unpaid.

The Bonds will be to bearer with coupons attached. The latter will be payable at the Banking offices of the National Bank, Notting-hill-gate, W.

It is intended, so far as practicable, to keep a registrar of the holders of the Bonds at the offices of the Society. Applications will have to be made to the Secretary, 25 per cent. being paid on application, and the remaining 75 per cent. will be payable one month after allotment. Cheques must be made payable to the Secretary, and crossed "Account of the Western District Co-operative Society, Limited."

UNITED TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

THE Directors have had their attention drawn to the opinion of Counsel published in the newspapers this morning. The Directors on their side are also well advised, and proceedings have already been commenced as to the first question—namely, the rights of the New Company, under the Scott and Wallaston agreement, and as soon as the disclaimer is completed proceedings will be taken to try the question whether the Gower Transmitter is an infringement of the Edison Patent. The Directors have confined their observations to that part of the prospectus of the new Company which has reference to this company, although there are many other statements in the prospectus which are open to serious question. The investing public must now judge for themselves as to embarking in an enterprise which confessedly can only be carried on under the license of this Company so far the Receiver is concerned, and as to whose rights, under the existing license, serious litigation is inevitable. As to the Carbon Transmitter, the other part of the Telephone, it is either covered by Edison's patent, or it is public property. In the former case (as to which the Directors are advised by the most eminent counsel and experts), the rights under it are vested in this Company; and the new Gower Bell Company will have no power to use it without this Company's licence. In the latter case it is difficult to see on what ground the vendor can charge £200,000 as the purchase money to the new Company.

JAMES BRAND, Chairman.

Offices of the United Telephone Company, Limited, 36, Coleman-street, E.C., 2nd April, 1881.

THE BRITISH GOWER-BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED.

The Directors of this Company invite the attention of the public to the following opinion, given yesterday by the Attorney-General (Sir Henry James, M.P.), the Solicitor-General (Sir Farrer Herschell, M.P.), and Mr. J. Fletcher Moulton.

It will be observed that this opinion authoritatively denies the validity of the attacks made or threatened by the United Telephone Company.

COPY OF OPINION.

1. We are of opinion that the License granted by the Telephone Company, Limited, to Messrs. Scott and Wollaston does not impose any restriction on the use of Telephones made under the License, and sold by the Licensees.

2. We are of opinion that the Gower-Bell Telephone Transmitter is not an infringment of Edison's Patent of 1877, as amended by the proposed disclaimer.

3. We are of opinion that the variance between the Provisional and complete specifications of Crossley's Patent is so great that they substantially refer to two totally distinct inventions, or alleged inventions, and that this would be held to be fatal to the validity of the Patent, independently of any question of its novelty.

(*Signed*) HENRY JAMES,
" FARRER HERSCHELL,
" J. FLETCHER MOULTON.

March 31*st*, 1881.

CLOSING OF THE LISTS.

Notice is hereby given, that the Application Lists for Shares in this Company will be closed for London on Tuesday next, the 5th inst., and the following day (Wednesday) for the Country.

W. H. DRAKE, *Chairman.*
J. A. MAYS, *Secretary.*

THE BRITISH GOWER-BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY, LIMITED,
9, GREAT WINCHESTER STREET, E.C.,
1*st April*, 1881.

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